

To: R7 Daily Digest INBOX[R7_Daily_Digest_INBOX@epa.gov]
From: Bryan, David
Sent: Fri 11/6/2015 9:20:14 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest for 11/06/15

Upcoming EPA Region 7 Events by Division

* New additions noted with an asterisk

RA:

11/9/15 – Meeting with Missouri Attorney General, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Lynn Juett, 7883

11/10/15 – Meeting with GSA Region 6 Administrator on Executive Order requirement for EPA/GSA climate change program development through Federal Executive Board, Regional Office. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

11/12/15 – National Association of Farm Broadcasters Convention, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

11/30/15 - Process Excellence Improvement Training, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Jonathan Cooper, 7287

12/8-9/15 - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

***12/14/15** - Courtesy Visit with Rob Manes and John Cougher, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

DRA:

11/17-18/15 - Executive Management Council Meeting, Washington D.C. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

12/8-9/15 - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

10/29/15 – Regional Recognition Ceremony, Regional Office, Contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

11/10/15 – Meeting with GSA Region 6 Administrator on Executive Order requirement for EPA/GSA climate change program development through Federal Executive Board, Regional Office. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

***12/14/15** - Courtesy Visit with Rob Manes and John Cougher, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

11/10/15 – EPA Food Recovery Week of Action event at Haskell University, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646

***11/10/15** – Presentation on top ten RCRA violations to the Iowa Strategic Goals Program, Ankeny, Iowa. Contact: Nicole Moran, 7641

***11/10/15** - KC City Energy Project Advisory Committee meeting, Union Station, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Craig Bernstein, 7688

***11/12/15** – Mid-America Regional Council's Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

***11/12/15** – Region 7 Small Business Environmental Assistance Providers Semi-Annual Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Gary Bertram, 7533

11/17/15 – Prescribed burn workshop for Kansas counties, Horton, Kan. Contact: Gina Grier, 7078

11/18-19/15 – Pollution Prevention (P2) Roundtable Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646

***12/3/15** – Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

***12/3/15** – Meet with Iowa Department of Natural Resources Air Quality Bureau and observe Kaizen event, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

***12/7/15** – Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant exercise, Burlington, Kan. Contact: Chuck Hooper, 7271

***12/10/15** - Mid-America Regional Council's Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

***12/11/15** – Missouri Emergency Response Commission meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Terri Blunk, 7013

***12/16/15** – E.O. 13650 Federal Inspector training, EPA Regional Office, Lenexa, Kan. Contact: George Hess, 7540

CNSL

None

ECO

11/18- 19/15 – MDNR Integrated Compliance Information System–National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (ICIS-NPDES) HQ Training, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neal Gilbert, 7985

ENST

11/15/15 – Monitoring & Environmental Services Branch staff will attend the 8th Annual Symposium on Harmful Algal Blooms in the United States for training on new techniques and technology. Contact: Mike Davis, 5042

11/16-20/15 – Quality Assurance Training at Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Diane Harris, 7258

PLMG

11/17/15 – FEMA RiskMap workshop in Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Doyle, 7667

11/21/15- 39th Street Corridor Redevelopment public involvement meeting at Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact David Doyle, 7667.

RA/OPA

11/6/15 – Ag Future of America Career Fair, Westin Kansas City at Crown Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

SUPR

None

WWPD

11/10-12/15 – Ground Water Protection Council peer review of Nebraska Oil and Gas Commission, Class II Underground Injection Control Program, Sidney, Neb. Contact: Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

***11/10/15** – Missouri Department of Natural Resources Water Quality Standards Workgroup Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Bob Angelo, 7060

11/12/15 – Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Climate Resilience Workshop, Kansas City, Mo. Contacts: Amy Shields, 7396, Roberta Vogel-Leutung, 7072

11/17-18/15 – Iowa Department of Natural Resources Annual Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Review, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Gabrielle Thompson, 7569

11/18-19/15 – Kansas Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, Manhattan, Kan. Contact: Amy Shields, 7396

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Deb Fischer – 11/5/15 – Letter – Questions about Region 7 investigations on enforcement of lead-based paint regulations in Nebraska. Due: 11/19/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

Rep. Margo McNeil – 10/21/15 – Email – Follow-up questions from state legislator phone briefing related to West Lake Landfill Superfund Site. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Press Inquiries:

KIOS 91.5, Omaha Public Radio – Cheril Lee – 10/19/15 – Requests interview about the newly award Environmental Justice Small Grant to Together Incorporated of Metropolitan Omaha. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Korean Broadcasting System – Bae Rhee – 10/29/15 – Requesting interview with Region 7 about the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Curtis Carey, 7506 (open)

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Environmental Stories:

Kansas City Star - Activists raise concerns over shuttered Kansas City bomb-making plant - 11/5/15 - The Federal Bannister Complex near Troost Avenue and Bannister Road, once a cog in the nation's manufacturing of nuclear weapons, has been contaminated with various toxins. The Bridgeton Landfill was also a topic of discussion. <http://www.kansascity.com/news/government-politics/article43364535.html>

Omaha World-Herald (editorial) - Concerns rise about EPA water rules - 11/6/15 - The best course is for the EPA to press the pause button and work with the states to recast the rules. There's a positive consensus to be achieved, one that provides a balanced approach and much-needed clarity. http://www.omaha.com/opinion/world-herald-editorial-concerns-rise-about-epa-water-rules/article_0aec79f9-338b-55db-8a8c-74a9b66a4179.html

Mason City (Iowa) Globe Gazette - Charles City plans removal of monitoring wells - 11/6/16 - The city of Charles City will be paying about \$75,000 more than anticipated this fiscal year for monitoring a former chemical disposal site on Shaw Avenue. http://globegazette.com/news/local/charles-city-plans-removal-of-monitoring-wells/article_0c57ea2f-d553-5e55-97c7-f132822baa23.html

KOMU Channel 8 Columbia - Fight over proposed hog farm continues in mid-Missouri - 11/5/15 - The group Friends of Responsible Agriculture is continuing to fight a proposed hog farm from being built in Callaway County. FORAG is awaiting the results from the Cole County judicial court next month, after filing a lawsuit against the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Clean Water Commission. <http://www.komu.com/news/enterprise-fight-over-proposed-hog-farm-still-continues-in-mid-missouri/>

Storm Lake (Iowa) Pilot-Tribune (editorial) - What is lawsuit really after? - 11/5/15 - Iowans suing Iowans is difficult enough to swallow, but the concept of rewarding such an expensive and some might suggest ultimately fruitless legal entanglement is a bit troubling. <http://www.stormlakepilottribune.com/story/2247535.html>

KTIV Channel 4 Sioux City, Iowa - Sioux City leaders get first-hand look into wastewater treatment process - 11/5/15 - The goal of Thursday's tour was to see how the plant operates, and identify any upgrades that are needed. <http://www.ktiv.com/story/30450746/2015/11/05/sioux-city-leaders-get-first-hand-look-into-wastewater-treatment-process>

Pittsburg (Kan.) Morning Sun - City may seek damages in water tower delay - 11/5/15 - A few weeks ago, the city dumped out about 160,000 gallons after the water did not meet Kansas Department of Health and Environment standards. The second dump on Thursday was because the water went stagnant thanks to a delay in getting the tower up and running. <http://www.morningsun.net/article/20151105/NEWS/151109939>

Columbus (Neb.) Telegram - Wind farms expand, but can they survive political wrangling? - 11/5/15 - Nebraska ranks high in wind energy potential, but lags behind neighboring states in turning that into electricity generation. So what's the hang-up in an age of increasing oil prices and an emphasis on a clean environment? http://columbustelegram.com/banner-press/opinion/capitol-view/article_5fe143ad-615e-59aa-8b79-c845f1825f79.html

Cooling Post (blog) - World could agree HFC phase-down in 2016 - 11/6/15 - With HFCs now to be included within the Montreal Protocol, this week's meeting in Dubai ended with real prospects of a global HFC phase-down agreement next year. <http://www.coolingpost.com/world-news/world-could-agree-hfc-phase-down-in-2016/>

Radio Iowa (Des Moines) - Senator Ernst believes resolution on EPA water rules will pass the

House - 11/6/15 - Iowa Senator Joni Ernst says she is encouraged by the passage of a resolution she sponsored to drop the expanded E-P-A's rule governing the regulation of U.S. waters. The "Waters of the U.S." or WOTUS rules issue now goes to the House. <http://www.radioiowa.com/2015/11/06/senator-ernst-believes-resolution-on-epa-water-rules-will-pass-the-house/>

The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa - Ernst: EPA water rule too restrictive, expensive - 11/5/15 - Sen. Joni Ernst expects the U.S. House to follow the Senate's lead in approving her resolution that would void new environmental rules that the EPA says would protect waterways from pollution but are opposed by farm and business groups as overly restrictive and costly to follow. <http://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/government/iowa-senators-ernst-grassley-expect-waters-of-the-us-rule-making-issue-heading-to-court-20151106>

Widely reported

KOLR Channel 10, Springfield, Mo. - Clean Water Rule Halted in Federal Court - 11/5/15 - After two Supreme Court cases, the EPA came back with the Clean Water Rule but some politicians say not so fast because of the overreach by the federal government. The Clean Water Rule hit a significant dam on its way to enforcement after a U.S. Court of Appeals put a stay on the Rule. <http://www.ozarksfirst.com/news/clean-water-rule-halted-in-federal-court>

Agri-Pulse - Lawmakers urge EPA to reconsider RFS proposals - 11/5/15 - A bipartisan group of 184 House members wrote to Environmental Protection Agency chief Gina McCarthy this week urging her to reconsider the Renewable Fuel Standard proposals the agency released earlier this year, saying they would cause a "breach of the ethanol blend wall." <http://www.agri-pulse.com/Lawmakers-urge-EPA-to-reconsider-RFS-proposals-11052015.asp>

Reuters - Dubai meeting leads to agreement on curbing use of HFCs - 11/6/15 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy said on Thursday several nations took a step toward an amendment to the Montreal Protocol that will substantially reduce greenhouse gases by cutting back on production and use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/11/06/usa-climatechange-hfcs-idUSL1N13105X20151106>

Huffington Post (blog) - The Oasis of an HFC Amendment: Not a Mirage, But Still a Dune or Two Away - 11/5/15 - Early Friday morning, the Dubai meeting closed with an agreement to "work within the Montreal Protocol to an HFC amendment in 2016," and to intensify the pace of negotiations on remaining issues with a series of extra meetings. We are not at the oasis, but my camel can smell the water. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-doniger/the-oasis-of-an-hfc-amend_b_8483966.html

Washington Examiner - EPA reaches global greenhouse gas deal in Dubai - 11/5/15 - Countries from around the world have reached an agreement on reducing emissions of a greenhouse gas that is 10,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide. <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-reaches-global->

greenhouse-gas-deal/article/2575781

San Diego (Calif.) Argonaut (opinion) - Food without Fear - 11/4/15 - Indoor urban farming could help feed the homeless and alleviate our innate worries about scarcity in the land of plenty. History once led farmers into cities. Now I believe it's time to bring the farms into the cities.

<http://argonautnews.com/opinion-food-without-fear/>

Agri-View - USDA invests in biofuel - 11/6/15 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture is partnering with 21 states through the Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership to nearly double the number of fueling pumps nationwide that supply renewable fuels to U.S. motorists. http://www.agriview.com/briefs/crop/usda-invests-in-biofuel/article_9db011b4-80f4-5618-8407-5249194c8e59.html

High Plains Journal (Hays, Kan.) - US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announces investments in Kansas renewable fuels infrastructure - 11/5/15 - Through ongoing investments, the USDA will substantially expand the number of fueling stations offering higher blends of ethanol fuel.

http://www.hpj.com/general/us-agriculture-secretary-tom-vilsack-announces-investments-in-kansas-renewable/article_62398058-0ed2-5584-b5b1-32b01aa79ed1.html

Iowa Farmer Today - Poll finds both parties agree on renewable fuels - 11/6/15 - If there's one thing likely Republican and Democratic caucus-goers agree on, it's their support for renewable fuels and the Renewable Fuel Standard. http://www.iowafarmertoday.com/news/crop/poll-finds-both-parties-agree-on-renewable-fuels/article_96d59b22-8343-11e5-bea5-437976af6a9f.html

St. Louis Business Journal - City to hire 'chief resilience officer' - 11/5/15 - The city of St. Louis plans to hire a chief resilience officer. The employee will be in charge of the development and implementation of a City Resilience Plan over the next two years that will address: riot/civil unrest, heat wave, tornado, flooding, endemic violence, educational disparities, declining population and aging infrastructure. <http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2015/11/05/city-to-hire-chief-resilience-officer.html>

St. Louis Business Journal - City unveils development plan for Pruitt-Igoe site - 11/6/15 - The city of St. Louis is planning to rezone the former Pruitt-Igoe site, as it seeks to redevelop the roughly 35 acres just south of the proposed National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) site north of downtown. <http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2015/11/06/city-unveils-development-plan-for-pruitt-igoe-site.html>

Domestic Fuel - Where or Where Will Cellulosic Ethanol Go? - 11/6/15 - The world's largest cellulosic ethanol biorefinery went online Friday, October 30, 2015 in Nevada, Iowa. In Iowa, support for renewable energy is a bipartisan issue. <http://energy.agwired.com/2015/11/06/where-or-where-will-cellulosic-ethanol-go/>

E&E Daily News - Science panel chairman threatens agency on climate documents - 11/5/15 - The chairman of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee is doubling down on his demand for the emails and communications of scientists who published research that disputes the global warming "pause." <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1060027498/>

Greenwire - Acting Region 7 administrator gets formal appointment - 11/5/15 - U.S. EPA's headquarters has formalized the appointment of Mark Hague as the head of its heartland office. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060027542/>

EnergyWire - Life span of U.S. reactors is an issue for the Clean Power Plan - 11/6/15 - The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will update by year's end proposed guidelines for assessing the safe life span for nuclear reactors -- a central issue for the nuclear industry, the nation's future electric power supply and the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan. <http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2015/11/06/stories/1060027604>

Greenwire - Agency continues use of questioned green chemistry statistics - 11/5/15 - A call by the U.S. EPA inspector general to consider ending a popular green chemistry program hasn't stopped the agency from pressing ahead with next year's event and doubling down on statistics criticized as lacking scientific basis. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060027550/>

Biofuels Digest - 184 Congressmen write EPA to lower RFS blending mandate - 11/6/15 - In Washington, 184 Congressmen wrote a letter to EPA administrator Gina McCarthy opposing the RFS, seeking her to cut the blending mandates currently preparing for release by the end of this month. <http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2015/11/06/184-congressmen-write-epa-to-lower-rfs-blending-mandate/>

Utility DIVE - EIA: Nuclear capacity set to rise despite recent shutdowns - 11/4/15 - In spite of several recent closure announcements, EIA on Monday said the nation's nuclear capacity would grow between 2016 and 2020 – but it also had not accounted for the impacts of the most recent announcement from New Orleans-based Entergy that same day about its FitzPatrick nuclear facility. <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/eia-nuclear-capacity-set-to-rise-despite-recent-shutdowns/408572/>

Utility DIVE - Midwest power co-ops face steep challenges for Clean Power Plan compliance - 11/6/15 - Cooperative power providers are struggling with how to comply with the Clean Power Plan, and many are finding the challenge could wind up costing consumers money as they are forced to buy credits or shutter generation. <http://www.utilitydive.com/news/midwest-power-co-ops-face-steep-challenges-for-clean-power-plan-compliance/408743/>

New York Times - Michael Bloomberg Targets Attorneys General With Ads on Carbon Emissions - 11/6/15 - Former Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York City will run millions of dollars in political television ads against four state attorneys general who are suing the Obama administration over new regulations on carbon emissions from power plants. The ads will run in Missouri, Florida, Michigan and Wisconsin. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/07/us/politics/michael-bloomberg-state-attorneys-general-carbon-emissions.html>

North American Windpower - Report: Missouri Should Boost Renewable Energy Policies - 11/6/15 - According to a new report from Washington, D.C.-based Advanced Energy Economy (AEE), policy changes in Missouri that would enable companies to contract directly with third-party suppliers of renewable energy and raising the state's cap on the size of installations that qualify for net metering would grow the renewable energy sector and drive private investment, job creation and economic growth. http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.14798

Washington Post - As scientists warn of 'chilling effect' on research, congressman doubles down on NOAA to release deliberations on climate study - 11/6/15 - A nasty fight between a senior House Republican and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration over a recent climate change study is getting nastier. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/federal-eye/wp/2015/11/06/as-scientists-warn-of-chilling-effect-on-research-congressman-doubles-down-on-noaa-to-release-deliberations-on-climate-study/>

The Libertarian Republic - EPA's Smog Regulation Will Cost 40x More Than Predicted - 11/6/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency estimated its stricter smog limits would only cost Americans \$1.4 billion a year, but a new report argues the total cost to the economy is likely 40 times higher than agency estimates. <http://thelibertarianrepublic.com/epas-smog-regulation-will-cost-40x-more-than-predicted/>

Greenwire - GOP bill would reduce agency staff by 15% - 11/6/15 - Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-Va.) has proposed legislation that would slice into U.S. EPA's staff, thinning the agency's ranks by thousands. Yesterday, Griffith introduced H.R. 3939, the "Environmental Protection Agency Maximum Achievable Contraction of Technocrats Act," or the "EPA MACT Act." The bill would require EPA to reduce its staff by 15 percent over three years. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060027628/>

Greenwire - Greens press court for tougher cleanup deadlines - 11/6/15 - A coalition of greens and public health groups led by WildEarth Guardians urged a panel of judges at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to reject deadlines set by EPA for states to submit their plans to clamp down on fine particles that come from power plants, smokestacks and auto tailpipes. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060027637/>

Keystone XL Pipeline

Associated Press - Obama kills Keystone XL, says pipeline not in U.S. interests - 11/6/15 - President Barack Obama says he's rejecting the Keystone XL pipeline because he does not believe it serves the national interest. Obama says the pipeline has played an overinflated role in political discourse. http://qctimes.com/business/obama-administration-kills-keystone-xl-pipeline/article_58567ac3-7907-584f-8784-e520e3233f14.html

Washington Post - Obama kills Keystone XL, says pipeline not in U.S. interests - 11/6/15 - President Barack Obama rejected a presidential permit Friday for the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, citing concerns about its impact on the climate. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/obama-kills-keystone-xl-says-pipeline-not-in-u-s/article_67b92b3a-8e30-5adc-ae1f-d9759c3c2984.html

Greenwire - Obama rejects pipeline project, cites impact on climate - 11/6/15 - President Obama announced his rejection today of TransCanada Corp.'s Keystone XL oil pipeline, saying the Alberta-to-Gulf of Mexico project threatened to undermine an effort to combat global warming. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060027640/>

ABC News - Senators, Soccer Star Voice Concerns About Crumb-Rubber Playing Fields - 11/6/15 - Washington lawmakers today called for an independent federal investigation into crumb rubber, citing lingering health questions surrounding the small rubber shreds used as artificial turf. <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/rubber-turf-scrutinized-amid-unsubstantiated-talk-cancer-link/story>

Inside EPA - Citing 'American Leadership' In Paris Talks, Obama Rejects Keystone Pipeline - 11/6/15 - Linking the decision to fast-approaching international talks in Paris to address climate change, President Obama has rejected a key permit for the controversial Keystone XL tar sands pipeline that had become a major symbol in longstanding disagreements on energy and climate issues. <http://insideepaclimate.com/climate-daily-news/citing-american-leadership-paris-talks-obama-rejects-keystone-pipeline>

Watchdog - Obama puts the kibosh on Keystone XL pipeline - 11/6/15 - After a seven-year odyssey involving the U.S. government and one of its closest allies, President Obama rejected the Keystone XL pipeline project that would have funneled oil sands crude from Canada to the Gulf Coast. <http://watchdog.org/246073/obama-keystone-xl-pipeline/>

Environmental Leader - Obama Rejects Keystone XL Pipeline, Citing US Climate Leadership - 11/6/15 - Despite the US Senate and House of Representatives votes to approve the 1,179-mile oil pipeline from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, secretary of state John Kerry determined the controversial pipeline is not in the best interest of the US. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2015/11/06/obama-rejects-keystone-xl-pipeline-citing-us-climate-leadership/>

Washington (D.C.) Business Journal - Obama's rejection of Keystone XL pipeline could have 'chilling effect' on other energy infrastructure projects - 11/6/15 - Business groups blasted President Barack Obama's decision to reject TransCanada's permit to build the Keystone XL pipeline, which would have moved crude oil from Canada's tar sands to Gulf Coast refineries.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/bizjournals/washingtonbureau/2015/11/obamas-rejection-of-keystone-xl-pipeline-could.html>